

Follow the money: Every year, California distributes billions of dollars in grant funds that support a variety of worthy causes, from college scholarships to wildlife habitat protection. However, since many different state agencies administer the distribution of this money, it's not always easy for citizens to find out about what's available. The Governor's Office for Innovation in Government is leading an interagency project team that is designing a system to help state agencies provide and manage a comprehensive and accessible public database of all state grants for citizens, non-profit organizations, local government and the private sector in California. For more information, contact David Esselman at (916) 322-5410, or via e-mail at: David.Esselman@innovation.ca.gov. A more detailed description of the project can be found at: <http://www.iig.ca.gov/projects/grantsum.shtml>.

Click and learn: Want to sharpen your skills but can't find the time? The State Training Center's "Virtual Classroom" might be for you. The website features on-line training for governmental professionals 24-hours a day, seven days a week. You can take the training



State Training Center Virtual Classroom

at your own desk while participating in on-line discussions with your classmates and instructors. All courses are instructor-led, and Continuing Education Units are awarded through California State University, Sacramento. Among the offerings are

courses in Time Management, Strategic Planning, Written Communication, Project Management and Analytical Skills. To find out more, visit their website at:

<http://www.dpa.ca.gov/tcid/stc/virtual/virtual1.shtml>

Meaningful Work, if you can get it: You may recall reading a review of Tom Terez' book, "22 Keys to Creating a Meaningful Workplace" in our sister publication, the "New Century Express" newsletter. After studying countless of workplaces and the people who inhabit them, Terez has developed some head-turning insights into what separates our dream job from the ones we dread. To augment his book, he's also put together a website brimming with excerpts, columns and a free workplace diagnostic tool. The website is:

<http://www.meaningfulworkplace.com>

Innovator on the move: You've no doubt heard of Elvis, Cher and Pele. In state government the one-name-wonder is "Fern." We're talking about longtime Quality stalwart **Fern Johnson**, who recently moved from the Department of Personnel Administration's Office of Statewide Continuous Improvement to Cal-PERS. Among her many legendary feats were organizing the annual "Team Day" at the State Capitol, editing the "New Century Express" newsletter and coordinating the activities of the "Network for Performance Excellence" group of state change agents. Fern's new phone number is (916) 558-4182, and her e-mail address is: Fern.Johnson@calpers.ca.gov

Worth repeating: The following is an excerpt from a commentary by **Peter Schrag** published July 4 in the Sacramento Bee: “After all our disdain about government, Americans may be learning again that the free market doesn't always work its magic and that common action through public institutions is often indispensable to the most basic needs of a decent society, whether that need is reliable energy or public health or protection of the air and water.”

Change Agents need a MOM: If you find yourself constantly dodging mortar fire on the job, then you might fit the profile of a corporate maverick – the indispensable yet sometimes infuriating pioneers usually leading the way to breakthrough innovations. The mortar fire can come from jealous colleagues or apologists for the status quo. But don't be discouraged, help is on the way: MOM (Mentors of Mavericks). Wall Street Journal columnist **Hal Lancaster** explains this essential career survival technique at: <http://www.careerjournal.com/columnists/careercorner/20010605-careercorner.html>

Quality quote: “**Nothing in this world is impossible to a willing heart.**”

--Abraham Lincoln

*This monthly bulletin is intended to keep you abreast of significant activities going on in the Governor's Office for Innovation in Government, as well as to highlight innovative happenings around the state and around the world that might have an impact on your workplace. Feel free to forward it around. We hope to keep this communiqué lively, informative and relevant. For additional information, please visit the Innovation in Government website at <http://www.iig.ca.gov> . Comments and contributions are encouraged. E-mail **Russell Snyder** at Russell.Snyder@innovation.ca.gov or call (916) 323-9168.*



California is hard at work building new power plants. Four will be up and running this summer. But in the meantime, we all need to keep conserving energy. Please do your part. For more information, visit the Flex Your Power website at: <http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov> or call 1-866-968-7797.